THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The London based British citizen Iqbal Sayyed Hussain Kadri was arrested at Thane in Maharashtra under Section 13, 14 of the Foreigners Act, 1946 and Section 3 of the Passport Entry Act, 1920.

(b) Close interrogation by the State Police and Intelligence Agencies does not reveal his involvement with Pakistani Terrorist Organisations.

(c) State Government of Maharashtra has informed that the accused has purchased land in his name and in the names of relatives and friends at Raigad.

(d) The details documents about the illegal purchase of land have been provided to the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) authorities for further investigation. The validity of his Passport and Visa had expired, hence his stay in India is unauthorized for which he has been arrested and legal action has been taken against him.

Corruption and Irregularities in NHRC

1114. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received regarding corruption and irregularities in the office of National Human Rights Commission;

(b) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken regarding these complaints; and

(c) what arrangements are being made for better functioning of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Three complaints alleging irregularities in the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have been received since 1999. While two of these complaints were found to be unsubstantiated, in the case of the third complaint, on the basis of clarification furnished by NHRC, allegations of irregularities in the appointment of an

Assistant Registrar were examined in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). After consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case the appointment was, however, regularized with effect from 24.1.97 with the approval of DoPT.

Categories of Freedom Fighters

1115. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that freedom fighters are divided in various categories, if so, the details thereof together with the reasons for creating various categories;

(b) whether all the freedom fighters are not treated at par while giving them pension, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Union Government are considering to include all the freedom fighters in only one category; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Broadly, three categories of freedom fighters have been sanctioned pension as per details given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The nature of sufferings of each category differs and the number of pensioners in category (1) and (2) is very small. At present the Government is sanctioning pension at the rate of Rs. 3000/- per month plus dearness Relief to all the freedom fighters under the Swantantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980.